

11th International Anti-Corruption Conference: Workshop 5.3

Presentation Abstract

1. Panelist Name: Roderick Davids	2. Workshop Title: Corruption and Networks
-----------------------------------	--

3. Title of case-study or paper: Networks and South-African National Government Departments: A Case Study

South Africa, like other democracies in transition, has offered itself as a vulnerable target for organized crime and corruption networks to establish themselves. Many of these networks are under surveillance or investigation by the South African Police Services. The penetration by criminal networks of public institutions include the security forces in the late 1980's who were involved in the smuggling of contraband and street gangs, who were also used by security agencies to penetrate anti-apartheid groups. In turn, a lot of the latter's illegal activities were ignored. Currently, examples of networks colluding with and corrupting officials appear in the taxi and fishing industry, as well as in the lower echelons of the criminal justice system.

The South African Government has developed a systematic strategy against corruption. It has elements of both preventing and combating corruption, as well as the establishment of anti-corruption units across departments for the three tiers of government. In my paper I propose to examine corruption trends in three national departments of the South African Government (Home Affairs, Prisons and Police) that currently show evidence of extreme vulnerability to corruption and infiltration by organized networks. The paper will also address attempts by these departments to enhance anti-corruption measures by means of fraud prevention plans, whistleblowing, strategic objectives etc. A further issue will include the reasons for government opting for a multi-agency approach to combat corruption as opposed to a single-agency approach favoured by most other countries.